25. (New) A Web Browser program to be executed by an information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said program comprising:

receiving and displaying said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, said information including:

    1) a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

    2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; and

establishing a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to the predetermined apparatus based on said line number if a predetermined position on said displayed information is indicated and said predetermined position is associated with said line number. --

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in light of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10-21 and 23 remain active in the application; Claims 24 and 25 are newly presented, and correspond generally to Claims 7 and 18, respectively.

In the Office Action dated December 6, 2000, Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,838,682 (Dekelbaum *et al.*).

By the foregoing amendment, dependent Claims 3, 6, 9, and 22 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, their subject matter being incorporated into independent Claims 1, 4, 7, and 20, respectively. Moreover, Claims 17, 18, 19 and 23 are also amended to include subject matter from the now-cancelled dependent claims.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) accompanies this Amendment, submitting five Japanese laid-open documents with corresponding English-language translations, and one U.S. patent that corresponds to one of the laid-open documents. It is believed that paragraphs [0020] through [0024] of laid-open document 9-81447 were cited in a rejection against a corresponding Japanese patent application.

Turning now to the present U.S. case, briefly, the invention provides a way in which a communication link may be established between an "information processing apparatus"[2] and a "predetermined apparatus"[3] using "information"[4] that is downloaded from an information providing apparatus[5] to the information processing apparatus. Each independent Claim 1, 4, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 23 now recites that the downloaded "information" includes not only a "line number"[6] but also a "designation of a communication method"[7] that defines communications with the predetermined apparatus.

Independent Claims 1-4, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 23 define inventions in a variety of statutory categories, based on the proposition that the "information" specifies not only a line leading to a particular apparatus, but also the *communication method* that defines communication

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[2]Such as, for example, a personal computer 1 (Fig. 1).

[3]Such as, for example, fax information providing apparatus 7, telephone set 8, PC-communication host adapter 9 and/or voice-mail handling apparatus 10 (Fig. 1).

[4]Such as, for example, an HTML web page.

[5]Such as, for example, IP server 5 (Applicants' FIGS. 1 and 13).

[6]In a preferred embodiment to which the claims should not be limited, the "line number" may be a telephone number delineated by tags such as <TEL> ... .</TEL>; *see* Applicant's specification, paragraph bridging pages 26 and 27.

[7]*See* Applicant's specification; paragraph bridging pages 27 and 28; the claimed communication method is also referred to as a "communication procedure" or a "connection type." Examples include protocols other than http, such as ftp and telnet, that are not adapted to include hypertext/hyperlink tags; *see* specification at page 29, lines 2-11.

with the apparatus on that line. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is not disclosed in or properly suggested by the Dekelbaum-et-al.-patent.

Dekelbaum et al. disclose a system by which telephone and Internet merchants may establish communications with customers, not only over the Internet but also over a separate switched network. A sales representative can be provided with information on the customer's Internet session, and can customize his communication with a customer accordingly over the second communications link.

Dekelbaum's system involves encapsulating a merchant's phone number in an HTML-encoded home page. The phone number may be associated with a MIME type association that triggers a dialer utility in a client's computer such as an autodialer application,[8] or the HTML page may include autodialing hyperlinks.[9] However, a MIME type association that triggers an autodialer does not define a *communication method* that governs communication *after* the number is dialed.

Significantly, as is most evident in Dekelbaum's Figure 10, the communication link to the predetermined apparatus must involve several decisions that are resolved after the number is dialed, including whether or not a data modem is detected and whether a voice is detected.[10] Accordingly, the Dekelbaum et al. patent *teaches away from* including, in information (a web page) that can be sent from an information providing apparatus to the information processing apparatus *before the number is dialed*, specification of a *communication method* that defines

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[8]Dekelbaum et al., col. 14, lines 53-56.

[9]Id., col. 14, lines 24-25.

[10]Id., see the decision blocks "data modem detected?" and "voice detected?" in the lower right portion of Dekelbaum's Figure 10.

communication after the number is dialed. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 1, 4, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 23 are novel[11] over the Dekelbaum *et al.* patent.

Moreover, because Dekelbaum *et al.* are concerned with communications in a customer service environment, the Dekelbaum *et al.* patent cannot reasonably be cited to suggest[12] designation of a communication method within information downloaded in a first communications link. For example, in the non-limiting embodiment illustrated in Applicants' Figure 1, it is feasible to specify, in advance, a communication method to communicate between personal computer 1 and any of devices 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10. This feasibility is not present in Dekelbaum's customer service environment since that will involve unpredictable customer choice and a distinguishing of modem and voice as discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Dekelbaum *et al.* neither disclose nor properly suggest Claims 1, 4, 7, 17, 18, 19, and 20 and 23. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims and their dependent claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 24 and 25 are newly presented as directed to an Internet appliance and a Web Browser program, respectively, corresponding generally to Claims 7 and 18, respectively, and should be allowable for the reasons presented above.

Applicants have amended dependent Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, and 15 to be in independent form and to include the limitations of *original* Claim 7. Applicants emphasize that independent Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, and 15 do *not* include the limitation added by amendment to Claim 7. That is, Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, and 15 are submitted to be patentable for reasons other than the designation of a communication method in information that is downloaded to an information processing apparatus.

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[11]Within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102.

[12]Within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103.

For example, the Dekelbaum *et al.* patent is not believed to disclose Claim 10's selection of one of a plurality of line numbers associated with a "predetermined position" (which may be a hypertext or hyperlink position on a display). Likewise, it is not believed that Dekelbaum *et al.* disclose Claim 11's number adder that adds digits necessary for international communication when the claimed "predetermined apparatus" is in a foreign country. Further, it is not believed that the Dekelbaum *et al.* patent discloses the display of an estimated charge for a telephone call needed to communicate with the "predetermined apparatus" as recited in Claim 13. Finally, the combination of details of the functional limitations recited in Claims 14 and 15 are not believed to be disclosed in or properly suggested by the Dekelbaum *et al.* patent.
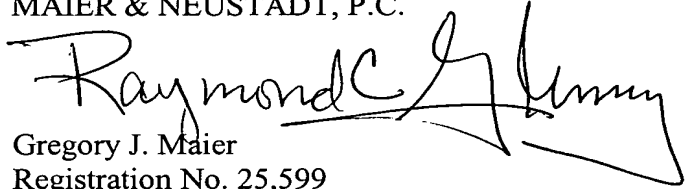
Whereas the Dekelbaum *et al.* patent appears to disclose an autodialer that requests confirmation that a displayed number should be dialed before the outgoing telephone call is actually initiated,[13] the Dekelbaum *et al.* patent does not appear to disclose the features recited in Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, and 15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that these now-independent claims are allowable on their own merits. Accordingly, allowance of all pending claims is requested.

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[13]Dekelbaum *et al.*, paragraph bridging columns 12 and 13.

In view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable and that the case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT SHOWING CHANGES TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A recording medium [for] configured to record [ing] information described in a language usable for describing [a] link destinations, wherein said information includes:

a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus as a link destination; and

a designation of a communication method defining communication with said predetermined apparatus via said line.

2. (Amended) A recording medium according to claim 1 wherein said information is described in an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) and said line number is described along with a line-number tag [, a tag for] showing that what is described [there] by said line number is a line[number].

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

4. (Amended) A transmission medium [for] configured to transmit [ting] information described in a language usable for describing [a] link destinations, wherein said information includes:

a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus as a link destination; and

a designation of a communication method defining communication with said predetermined apparatus via said line.

5. (Amended) A transmission medium according to claim 4 wherein said information is described in an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) and said line number is described along

with a line-number tag [, a tag for] showing that what is described [there] by said line number is a line[number].

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

7. (Amended) An information processing apparatus [for processing incoming] configured to process information described in a language usable for describing [a] link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver [ing means for] configured to receive [ing] said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including:

1) a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; [for providing said information;]

b) a display [means for] configured to display [ing] said information received by said receiver; [ing means;]

c) a command [operation means to be operated when] device configured to specify [ing] a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display[means]; and

d) a communication controller configured to [means which is used for] establish [ing] a communication link with [a] the predetermined apparatus, governed by the communication method, and based on [a] the line number [assigned to a line connected to said predetermined apparatus] if said predetermined position specified by [operating] said command device [operation means] is associated with said line number.

8. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 7 wherein:

said information is described in an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language);

said line number is described along with a line number tag [, a tag for] showing that what is described thereby is a line[number]; and

a recognition device judges [means is employed thereby for forming a judgment as to] whether or not said line number is associated with said predetermined position based on said line-number tag.

Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

10. (Amended) [An information processing apparatus according to claim 7 further including] An information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display;

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus based on the line number, if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said line number; and

e) a line-number selector configured to [ing means which is used for] select [ing] one from a plurality of line numbers in case [said] plural line numbers are associated with said predetermined position.

11. (Amended) [An information processing apparatus according to claim 7 further including] An information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display;

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus based on the line number, if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said line number; and

e) a number adder configured to add [ing means which is used for adding] a number required for international communication to a line number in case said line number is a line number of a foreign country.

12. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 7 further including a confirmation [operating means to be operated for] device configured to confirm [ing] that a communication link with said predetermined apparatus shall be established.

13. (Amended) [An information processing apparatus according to claim 7] An information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display; and

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus based on the line number, if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said line number;

wherein said display [means] also displays an estimated charge for a telephone call to communicate with said predetermined apparatus.

14. (Amended) [An information processing apparatus according to claim 7] An information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display; and

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus based on the line number, if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said line number;

wherein:

said receiver [ing means] receives said information transmitted by said information providing apparatus by way of a predetermined network after a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network has been established;

said communication controller [means] establishes a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined apparatus after a line connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network has been cut off; and

said communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network is reestablished after communication with said predetermined apparatus has been completed.

15. (Amended) [An information processing apparatus according to claim 7] An information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display; and

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus based on the line number, if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said line number;

wherein:

said receiver [ing means] receives said information transmitted by said information providing apparatus by way of a predetermined network after a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network has been established; and

in case an attempt made by said communication controller [means] to establish a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined apparatus after cutting off a line connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network ends in a failure, either an attempt to establish a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined apparatus is again made or said communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network is re-established.

16. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 15 wherein, in case said attempt made by said communication controller [means] to establish a communication

link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined apparatus ends in a failure, said information processing apparatus is capable of selecting either processing to again make an attempt to establish a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined apparatus or processing to re-establish said communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network.

17. (Amended) A [n information processing] method for processing incoming information described in a language usable for describing [a] link destinations, said method comprising[the steps of]:

receiving and displaying said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, said information including:

1) a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; and [for providing said information; and]

establishing a communication link with [a] the predetermined apparatus based on [a] said line number [assigned to a line connected to said predetermined apparatus] if a predetermined position on said displayed information is indicated and said predetermined position is associated with said line number.

18. (Amended) A recording medium [for storing] configured to store a computer program to be executed by an information processing apparatus [for] configured to process [ing incoming] information described in a language usable for describing [a] link destinations, said program comprising[the steps of]:

receiving and displaying said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, said information including:

1) a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; and [for providing said information; and]

establishing a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to [a] the predetermined apparatus based on [a] said line number [assigned to a line connected to said predetermined apparatus] if a predetermined position on said displayed information is indicated and said predetermined position is associated with said line number.

19. (Amended) A transmission medium [for] configured to transmit [ting] a computer program to be executed by an information processing apparatus [for] configured to process [ing incoming] information described in a language usable for describing [a] link destinations, said program comprising[the steps of]:

receiving and displaying said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, said information including:

1) a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; and [for providing said information; and]

establishing a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to [a] the predetermined apparatus based on [a] said line number [assigned to a line connected to said predetermined apparatus] if a predetermined position on said displayed information is indicated and said predetermined position is associated with said line number.

20. (Amended) An information providing apparatus comprising:

a recording medium [for storing] configured to store information described in a language usable for describing [a] link destinations; and

a transmitter [ing means for] configured to transmit [ting] said information in response to a request, wherein said information stored in said recording medium includes:

1) a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus as said link destination; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus.

21. (Amended) An information providing apparatus according to Claim 20 wherein:

said information is described in a HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language); and

said line number is described along with a line number tag [for] indicating that a description thereof is a line[number].

Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

23. (Amended) An information processing system comprising:

a) an information providing apparatus [for providing] configured to provide information described in a language usable for describing [a] link destinations, [and an information processing apparatus for receiving and processing said information wherein:] said information providing apparatus [comprises:] including:

a recording medium for storing information including (1) a line number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus as said link destination and (2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; and

a transmitter configured to [ing means for] transmit [ting] said information in response to a request received from [said] an information processing apparatus,

b) [whereas said] said information processing apparatus, configured to receive and process said information, said information processing apparatus including: [comprises:]

a receiver configured to receive [ing means for receiving] said information transmitted by said information providing apparatus;

a display configured to [means for] display [ing] said information received by said

receiver; [ing means;]

a command [operation means to be operated when] device configured to specify

[ing] a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display[means]; and

a communication controller [means which is used for] configured to establish [ing]

a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to [a] the

predetermined apparatus based on [a] the line number [assigned to a line connected to said

predetermined apparatus] if said predetermined position specified by [operating] said

command device [operation means] is associated with said line number.

24. (New) (presented in full in the attached Amendment)

25. (New) (presented in full in the attached Amendment)